

**Town of Groton
Parks and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, June 9, 2010
Spicer House at 7:15 PM
Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Butta called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Phil Butta, Richard McCarthy, Edward Kolnaski, Patricia Semancik, and Gregory Leonard.

Staff: Jerry Lokken and Mary Jo Riley

III. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Ms. Semancik, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting, as distributed.

IV. Citizen's Petitions

There were approximately twenty (20) people present who were involved with the Groton Senior Center program entitled Cardiac Rehabilitation. The following individuals express their concerns, regarding the termination of the program, (sign-in sheet attached): Steve Bruce, Barbara Hamanaka, Judy Malchik, Barney Allen, Phillip Jeckel, Alicia Bauer, Harry Mantzaris, Richard Jordan, Marie Davison, and Thomas Cataldi. They raised numerous items including:

- the lack of communication on why the program was being terminated, other than a reference to budget cuts
- there was no interaction with the participants regarding seeking alternatives, such as increasing the fee from the existing \$63.00 per month or attempting to increase the number of participants
- the need for the program, as a means for the participants to work towards improved cardio health
- the social and emotional benefits of the program and their contribution to the participant's general health
- the importance of group exercise in a controlled and supervised environment
- the role of the cardio nurse in assuring the well-being of the participants
- the beautiful new Senior Center's exercise facilities being perfectly suited for the program.
- that many of the participants have been involved in the program for several years
- and that the Parks and Recreation Commission is being respectfully requested to intervene on behalf of the program's participants, who would greatly appreciate it if they program could be continued.

The group presented a letter to the Commission, a copy of which is attached.

Mr. Leonard advised the Commission that he was a participant in the program. He stated that due to the inherent conflict-of-interest that situation imposed, that he would recuse himself from any discussion with the Commission on this matter.

Chairman Butta thanked those present for their input and indicated that the Commission would look into this matter.

V. Correspondence/Communications

A. Commissioners

Ms. Semancik reported that the sink in the ladies' room at Poquonnock Plains Park was inoperable. Mr. Lokken indicated he would have it repaired. Also regarding Poquonnock Plains Park, she asked if it was possible for an AED machine be available there during sporting events. A discussion ensued regarding identifying a potential secure yet accessible storage location for an AED machine and also determining if a machine would be available.

B. Director of Parks & Recreation

No report

VI. Town Council Referral

None

VII. Reports

A. Monthly Reports

Mr. Lokken reported that the Norwich Bulletin has decided to no longer print/distribute the "DISCOVER" magazine. He stated that this decision is affecting other area municipal parks and recreation departments as well. He said that alternatives are being explored/sought.

B. Golf Course Report

Mr. Lokken stated that May's revenues were good.

C. Golf Advisory Board (GAB) Updated

Mr. McCarthy reported that the GAB continues to be an effective means to improve the golf program.

D. Master Plan Committee/Sutton Park Master Plan Update

1. Master Plan Committee endorsed recommendations

It was noted that there has been little advancement of developing recommendations, due to problems with committee meeting quorums.

2. Committee participation

(See above)

E. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update

Mr. Leonard reported that the BAB is a highly energized group of dedicated individuals that have been successfully advocating public small boating programs in Groton.

He stated that he intended to attend the June 10, 2010, BAB meeting.

VIII. Old Business

A. Paintball Program Update

No advancement

B. New Funding Sources

1. Senior Center Funding Ideas

Ms. Riley stated that she has identified the following potential new funding streams: club store; special events; fundraising, grants, building rental, and service providers' fees. Ms. Riley and the Commission began discussing the-soon-to-be-terminated Cardio Rehabilitation program. Mr. Leonard recused himself from the discussion by leaving the building. Once the discussion ceased, Mr. Lokken so advised Mr. Leonard who returned to the meeting. Chairman Butta noted that no motions or votes occurred during Mr. Leonard's absence.

2. Revised Gift Catalog

It was agreed that Commission members would review the catalog, in preparation of the August meeting.

C. Role of the Commissioners

Discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

IX. New Business

A. Representative of Noank School Reuse Committee

Mr. McCarthy agreed to the represent the Commission on the committee.

B. Ethics Task Force Survey

It was agreed that Chairman Butta, with the assistance of staff, would complete the survey as requested by the Town.

X. Next Meeting Date:

August 11 at 7:15 PM at Spicer House

XI. Adjournment

On motion of Ms. Semancik, seconded by Mr. Kolnaski, the Commission adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

Signature



Date

